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Marine Fisheries Advisory

4th Annual Conference on Responsible Fishing –
“Preserving Our Oceans, Our Resources, and Our Communities”

The 4th Annual Conference on Responsible Fishing entitled “**Preserving our Oceans, Our Resources, and Our Communities**” will be held **September 29-30, 2004**. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*), Sea Grant, and FishExpo, the meeting will be held during the FishExpo at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, R.I. In concert with the FishExpo, the international-level conference will have a decided focus on fisheries issues confronting East Coast commercial fishermen.

The Conference Steering Committee has put together a two-day agenda, which they hope will encourage lively debate and discussion. The first day of the Conference (Wednesday, September 29th) will showcase several regional and international perspectives on responsible fishing. Discussions of cooperative research will examine commercial scalloping, cod tagging, groundfish access and the raised footrope trawl. On Thursday, September 30th, the agenda will focus on the dogfish fishery, herring fishery, and empirical data availability and use. Panel discussions will also be held on ecosystem management initiatives; their needs and requirements. The Conference will conclude with an emphasis on formally organizing the concept of responsible fishing into the international fishing and management community.

Individuals interested in participating in the Conference should download a registration form from the *MarineFisheries* website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) and follow directions for submission to *MarineFisheries*’ South Shore Office. Registration should be completed by September 22nd. Conference proceedings will be made available.

For further information
please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.